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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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NATO-France: [No unanimous agreement among the 14 North Atlantic Council members is likely before the middle of the week on the UK's draft declaration in support of an integrated NATO.]

[At the special meeting of the 14 NAC members on Friday, only the Belgian, German, Icelandic, Luxembourg, UK, and US delegates supported the declaration as it stood. The Greek, Italian, Dutch, and Turkish delegates expressed general agreement but were without final instructions from their governments. After a phone conversation with Foreign Minister Fanfani the Italian representative stated that his government, until formally invested, could not sign the declaration. This would be no earlier than 15 March.]

[The most serious objections were raised by the Canadians, Danes, Norwegians, and Portuguese. The Canadian and Danish representatives suggested that separate statements based on agreed points be issued by each of the 14 governments. The US ambassador in Oslo believes that a separate response approach would also find more favor with the Norwegians.]

[The Portuguese representative predicted that "Portuguese public opinion" would not stand for a "ringing declaration" against a country with which Portugal has no real difficulties. He is, however, flying to Lisbon to lobby for the declaration.]

[The UK has circulated a revised draft of its declaration to all 14 capitals and the British Foreign Office is hopeful of near unanimous agreement by Monday night. The UK ambassador in Copenhagen reports that the Danish foreign minister told him he expects quick approval of the revised declaration by the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. The British are strongly inclined to issue a separate UK statement embodying their draft if no agreement is forthcoming by Tuesday morning.]

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[The press has already surfaced reports of the attempt to obtain agreement to the UK proposal. Failure now to obtain the unanimous agreement of the 14 to some type of declaration in support of NATO or a fall-back to separate but similar declarations by each government would go far toward realizing one of De Gaulle's chief aims--publicizing the lack of unity in the alliance.]

[The French, meanwhile, made public on Saturday their own memorandum justifying their withdrawal of forces from NATO and their intended ouster of US and Canadian forces from France. The French memorandum, however, mentioned no time limit on the withdrawals and left open the way for wartime use of French facilities by other alliance members.]

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Rumania - West Germany: [Rumania may be preparing to sign a cultural exchange agreement with West Germany the language of which would recognize West Berlin as a part of the Federal Republic--the controversial "Berlin clause."]

[Under pressure from the Soviet Union at the urging of East Germany, Soviet bloc countries have refrained for a year from concluding any agreements with the Federal Republic which contain such a provision. As a result, negotiations on important economic and political issues have been fitful and without significant progress.]

[According to a West German Foreign Ministry official, however, Rumania has recently proposed that Bonn send a delegation to Bucharest in April to negotiate a cultural exchange agreement.]

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[Because the Rumanians previously had been informed that the Federal Government would only sign an agreement specifically including Berlin, the West German official has concluded that Bucharest is willing to accept a "Berlin clause."]

[Bulgarian authorities also have expressed an interest in a cultural accord with West Germany, but according to the same source would prefer it to be a supplement to the Bulgarian - West German trade agreement, which already contains a "Berlin clause." Bonn has delayed giving a firm answer to Sofia, hoping to conclude the agreement with Rumania first, thus creating a "new situation" for the Bulgarians.]

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NOTES

Bahrain: [The second terrorist act in a week against the Bahrain security forces occurred on 12 March when the second- and third-ranking officials of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) were both seriously injured in bomb explosions.]

[The Bahrain security forces will thus be seriously weakened during what may be a period of increased antiregime activity by Nasirist and pro-Communist nationalist organizations. London announced last month that this oil-producing island is to become Britain's new joint headquarters in the Persian Gulf when military forces are evacuated from Aden by 1968.]

Nigeria: Police and army units in the key northern region have been put on a six-day alert. Although uncertainties continue in the region as a result of far-reaching changes instituted since the 15 January coup, the alert appears to be directly related to the visit of many ministers of the former government to Kaduna, the region's capital, for the 12 March opening of an Islamic Center. By placing its forces on an alert the military regime is re-emphasizing its ban on political activity not only to those who have ignored the ban but also to younger army officers who may be chafing at the temporary presence in the city of the group they ousted barely two months ago.

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